



Patterson

(CG-16)

Builder: William Cramp and Sons, Philadelphia, PA

Commissioned (USN): 11 Oct 1911

Acquired (CG): 28 Apr 1924

Commissioned (CG): 24 Nov 1924

Decommissioned: 1 Apr 1930

Displacement: 742 tons

Dimensions: 293'10" overall x 27' x 9'5"

Machinery: Direct-drive turbines, 3 screws, 12,000 hp, 29.5 knots.

Complement: 6 officers, 82 men

Armament: 3 3"/50, 1 1-pdr.

Design & Service

A total of thirty-one Navy destroyers were lent to the Coast Guard for enforcing Prohibition. Adapting these vessels to service was thought to be less costly than building new ships. In the end the rehabilitation of the vessels became a saga in itself because of the exceedingly poor condition of many of these war-weary ships. In many instances it took nearly a year to bring the vessels up to seaworthiness. Additionally, these were by far the largest and most sophisticated vessels ever operated by the service and trained personnel were nearly nonexistent. As a result, Congress authorized hundreds of new enlistees. It was these inexperienced men that generally made up the destroyer crews.

USCGD *Patterson* was one of the pre-World War I 742-ton "flivvers". All were capable of over 25 knots, an advantage in the rum-chasing business. They, however, were easily outmaneuvered by smaller vessels. The destroyers' mission, therefore, was to picket the larger supply ships ("mother ships") and prevent them from off-loading their cargo onto the smaller, speedier contact boats that ran the liquor into shore. *Patterson* was among the first group of destroyers loaned to the Coast Guard. This vessel was stationed at Stapleton, NY.

Operational Highlights

28 Apr 1924 Transferred from US Navy to Coast Guard at Philadelphia Navy Yard.

24 Nov 1924 Commissioned at Hoboken, NJ.

30 Jan 1930 Ordered laid up at New London.

1 Apr 1930 Laid up in ordinary and decommissioned at New London.

12 Aug 1930 Ordered to be towed back to Philadelphia Navy Yard.

8 Oct 1930 Returned to US Navy at Philadelphia Navy Yard.

[Photograph](#)

